



FULTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Fall 2008 Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

Effective October 1, 2008

Fulton County remains under the EPD Drought Level IV for the Fall season. A level four drought response prohibits most types of residential outdoor water use. The Board of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted Rules for Outdoor Water Use, [Chapter 391-3-30](#) in May 2004. The rules apply to any entity, and its customers, permitted by EPD for water withdrawal or for the operation of a public drinking water supply system. The state's Rules for Outdoor Water Use include some exemptions for commercial water and may be found at the following website: www.gaepd.org. It should be noted that no outdoor water use is allowed, other than for activities exempted in 391-3-30-.05 of the Rules and as authorized by the Director of EPD. Local governments and water providers are authorized to implement more stringent outdoor water use schedules within their jurisdictions.

A. Landscapes

1. Each household, business or other institution/property owner will be allowed to hand water established landscapes. Hand watering, defined as one person with one hose with an automatic shut off nozzle, will be allowed 25 minutes a day, on the odd/even watering schedule. Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and odd addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 12:00 midnight 10:00 AM. The hand watering exemption applies to landscapes only. Irrigation systems may not be run under this exemption.
2. An exemption is provided for new landscape installations (including aeration and over seeding).
 - a. These new installations may be watered for a period of 10 weeks following installation (3 days per week) on the odd/even watering schedule as listed above.
 - b. Only newly - installed landscaping may be watered by irrigation system; all other watering must follow the hand watering exemption.
 - c. Irrigation systems may be used to water newly - installed landscaping, but only between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 AM.

In order to qualify for a new landscape exemption, the customer must enroll and successfully complete the Urban Agriculture Council's Registration Program. The program is available at www.urbanagcouncil.com or by contacting the Fulton County Extension Service at 404-612-7000.
- Note:** For new fall or winter installation – a new certificate must be obtained. Property owner must re-register and take the program even if they received a certificate for earlier planting in 2008.
- d. The certificate obtained from the course along with a Fulton County Landscape Exemption form www.fultoncountyga.gov and a purchase receipt must be prominently displayed at the property.
 - e. Newly installed landscape refers to turf, ornamentals, annuals and containerized plants installed within the last 30 days.
3. Irrigation systems may be used to water-in pesticides and herbicides (professionally applied) on turf; however, watering must be done within 24 hours of initial application, between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 AM. A sign (with date/time of chemical application) must be displayed in a prominent location at the property.
4. Failure to comply with the exemption requirements will result in a water ban violation and possible discontinuation of an irrigation account.

B. Pools

1. Public and private pools, previously prohibited in Drought Response Level 4, will be permitted to be filled and be topped off as necessary for maintenance.
2. Pools should not be drained for cleaning and maintenance prior to being opened. Due to limited water resources, wherever possible, chemical treatment should be used to resolve maintenance issues.
3. Observing simple practices such as using a pool cover, repairing leaks, maintaining proper chemical levels, reducing pool and spa temperature, installing a more water efficient filtration system, eliminating boisterous play, etc. can greatly reduce swimming pool water use. Additional information about water conservation for pools may be found at www.conservewatergeorgia.net.

C. Professionally certified or licensed landscapers, golf course contractors, and sports turf landscapers

1. Each landscape company must enroll and successfully complete the Urban Agriculture Council's Registration Program in order to qualify for the "newly-installed landscape exemption". The program is available at www.urbanagcouncil.com or by contacting the Fulton County Extension Service at 404-612-7000. Certificates can be photocopied so that the installation crew can have this on their person during installation and for use at multiple addresses.
2. Each landscape company's clients (homeowner/property owner or manager) must also complete this program for each property they own or manage.

D. Pressure Washing

1. Pressure washing can only be performed by a licensed professional.
2. Pressure washing will be allowed when required prior to a procedure such as painting, staining, or sealing.
3. Pressure washing will be allowed for health and safety (i.e., fire, slippery surface, mold/mildew buildup, etc.). Pressure washing of buildings or structures for beautification is prohibited. Pressure washing of parking lots, driveways, decks, etc. for aesthetic purposes is prohibited.

E. Prohibited Activities

1. Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing.
2. Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes, golf carts.
3. Non-commercial fund-raisers, such as car washes.
4. Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools, and waterfalls except when necessary to support aquatic life.

EXEMPTIONS

In addition to the above amended exemptions, the following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from watering restrictions:

1. Irrigation contractors: during installation and as needed for proper maintenance and adjustments of irrigation systems and equipment only
2. Sod producers
3. Ornamental growers
4. Fruit and vegetable growers
5. Retail garden centers
6. Hydro-seeding
7. Power-washing
8. Construction sites
9. Producers of food and fiber
10. Car washes
11. Personal food gardens
12. Other activities essential to daily business
13. Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf

For a complete copy of The Rules for Outdoor Water Use, [Chapter 391-3-30](#), please visit the following website: www.gaepd.org.

ENFORCEMENT

1. Fulton County will have enforcement staff available to provide routine patrol of the water service area. Such enforcement officers have the authority to enter property for the purpose of inspection for compliance. Calls will be routed through the Fulton County Call Center at 770-640-3040.
2. Fulton County will work with the municipalities within its service area to coordinate enforcement of the Water Restrictions.
3. Any person or entity failing to comply with these restrictions is subject to fines and or termination of services. The first violation will receive a written warning. The second violation will result in a non-criminal citation requiring the payment of a civil penalty to Fulton County in the amount up to \$1,000.00. A third violation may result in the termination of water services with additional fines and reconnection charges.
4. In order to encourage the efficient use of outdoor water and the proper maintenance of irrigation systems, customers are required to make timely repairs to broken irrigation systems (i.e., missing heads, broken pipes, etc.) and eliminate excessive runoff (i.e., water running down the driveway, street, or sidewalk).

Fulton County will continue to offer both residential and commercial water audit programs for high water users. Additional information can be found at www.fultongcountyga.gov.